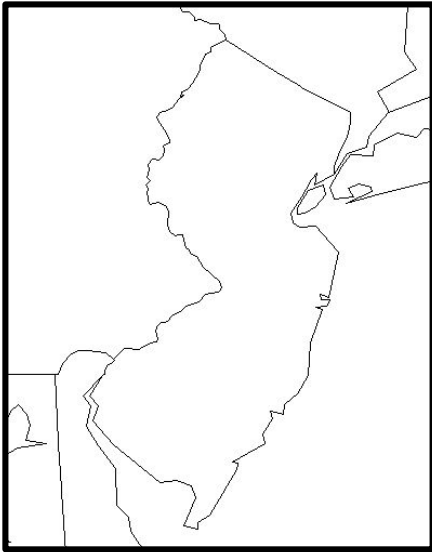


Can NJ Grow More with Less?

Do the math to find out how land use has changed in New Jersey!



New Jersey has 5.587 million acres of land. New Jersey is now recognized as the most densely populated state in the United States with 1,210 people per square mile. All these people need homes, schools, restaurants and stores and this affects the amount of land designated as farm land.

When George Macculloch (1775-1858) lived in Morristown and ran his 26-acre farm, more than half of the 5.587 million acres of land was farm land. In 1850 New Jersey ranked 19th in population with 489,555 people living in New Jersey out of a total United States population of 23.19 million.

Try these math problems:

- 1) If 57.2% of total land in 1850 was used as farm land and New Jersey had 5.587 million acres, how many acres was farm land? _____
- 2) In 1950 if 1.7 million of land was farm land. What percentage of New Jersey land was farmed? _____
- 3) In 2017 only 734, 000 acres was used as farm land. What percentage of New Jersey land was farmed? _____

The Bad News: In a forty-year period, since the 1980s, New Jersey lost more than 300,000 acres of farms, roughly the size of Morris County.

The Good News: In 2019 statistics show that for the first time in forty years farming in New Jersey is on the rise. Visit this website for more information:

<https://www.njfarmland.org/>

Answers: 1) 3,195,764 acres; 2) 30.4%; 3) 13%